

unless a supermajority of Congress votes to block the increase.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in pursuing these permanent and necessary reforms. Avoid the replay of the hostage-taking and brinksmanship of last year, and take the steps to avoid doing any more unnecessary harm to American families.

AMERICA'S WAR ON POVERTY

(Mr. SOUTHERLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 50th anniversary of America's war on poverty. While this war may have been launched with the best of intentions, it is clear we are engaged in a battle of attrition that has left more Americans in poverty than at any point in America's history by number.

That fact is staggering, considering the \$15 trillion and counting that has been spent on fighting this War on Poverty. The status quo simply isn't working. In fact, it is hurting many, many vulnerable families.

We have a moral obligation to do better for the people of Florida's Second Congressional District and across this great Nation, and for the 46.5 million Americans overall who are living in poverty.

As chairman of the Republican Study Committee's Anti-Poverty Initiative, I look forward to working on things going forward, on new, forward-thinking solutions that do several things: strengthen two-parent families; improve effective educational opportunities; create long-lasting job growth, producing fulfilling careers; and restore people's God-given opportunity for earned success.

THE WAR ON POVERTY

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago today President Johnson launched the war on poverty, giving rise to some of the most successful antipoverty programs in our history, including Medicare, Medicaid, food assistance, and Head Start.

Five decades later, eradicating poverty remains a moral imperative. It encompasses health and well-being, education, employment, and access to opportunity.

We have made progress. In 1967, nearly 26 percent of Americans lived in poverty. Today that number is 16 percent. Programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, which gives working Americans a ladder into the middle class, have helped us make that progress.

Today, in Congress, our commitment to ending poverty is in question. Because of Republican opposition, more than 18,000 Kentuckians and 1.3 million Americans are without a critical safety

net as they continue to search for work. As a result, our economy lost \$400 million last week alone.

Unemployment insurance is one of the most effective ways to transition those who lost jobs back into the workforce. In 2012, it helped 2.5 million Americans work their way out of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues today to recommit themselves to eradicating poverty and support an immediate extension of unemployment insurance.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give voice to the many out-of-work Americans whose unemployment insurance was allowed to expire.

James, from Santa Maria, California, wrote the following:

I started working at the age of 16 because our father had died. I had, up until April 2012, gone to work every day. I am no slouch. I am a citizen, a taxpayer, a U.S. Army veteran.

But now, his unemployment insurance benefit is gone. For James and for millions of Americans like him, we must act.

Unfortunately, House leadership has ignored this plight and, in doing so, these hardworking Americans will lose the means to keep job searching.

We must extend this lifeline for the long-term unemployed, their children, for our local economies, which gain \$3 of economic benefits for every \$2 invested in the program. The Senate is on the verge of doing just that. With bipartisan support, we must follow their lead.

James signed his letter to me in bold, capital letters: "PLEASE HELP." I urge House leadership and my colleagues to do just that.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, last year, as many have said, ended on a somber note. Over 1 million of our fellow Americans lost a vital economic lifeline, the temporary insurance that helps them get by while searching for a new job.

Louise, a constituent of mine from San Diego, recently wrote me to explain what losing such benefits means to her. She is 60 years old, and she has been looking for work since she was laid off a year ago from a stable job that she had held just for about 15 years.

And as she mentioned:

It is very scary to think that effectively, on January 1, I won't have any income. So what am I to do? I will have a roof over my

head for a short time, but I won't have the funds to pay for utilities.

And she went on to say:

By cutting extended unemployment, all that will be accomplished is more people being on welfare or living on the streets homeless. And that, that helps us? How?

Her story reminds us of our duty to lend a hand to those in need. Any of us could be in her shoes.

Extending unemployment benefits is not only the right thing, but it is also good for our economy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

□ 1245

CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 724) to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 724

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR DEALER CERTIFICATION OF NEW LIGHT-DUTY MOTOR VEHICLES.

Section 207(h) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7541(h)) is amended—

- (1) by striking paragraph (1); and
- (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be the lead sponsor of H.R. 724, along with my colleague, Congressman GARY PETERS of Michigan. This bipartisan bill, which has 106 cosponsors, repeals an obsolete regulatory requirement that no longer